

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 025012  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:JSIENNA  
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY  
SECRETARY BROWN  
EUR/RPM:WTSHINN, JR.  
PM/ISP:COL. MATHISON  
S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----096780 310524Z /11

O 310426Z JAN 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 025012

NODIS  
EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: TANK GUN

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE BROWN TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE MULLEY ON THE TANK  
GUN DECISION. YOU SHOULD DELIVER THIS TO MINISTER MULLEY  
JAN 31 AT 0901. COMPLETE ANNOUNCEMENT SCENARIO IS  
BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. (NOTE THAT ABOVE TIME IS  
WASHINGTON TIME.)  
BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR FRED,  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 025012

WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THE US ARMY'S DECISION  
ON A NEW TANK GUN FOR THE XM-1 TANK IS FAVORABLE TO THE  
GERMAN CANDIDATE SYSTEM.

WE BOTH KNOW THAT AS WE CONTINUE TO PUSH TOWARDS STANDARD-  
IZATION, THERE WILL BE "LOSERS" AS WELL AS "WINNERS"

WHEN CHOICES AMONG COMPETING SYSTEMS MUST BE MADE. OVER  
TIME WE SHOULD ALL HAVE OUR SHARE OF SUCCESSESS AS WELL  
AS DISAPPOINTMENTS. BUT EVEN IN THE CASE OF THE LATTER  
WE WILL OFTEN HAVE LEARNED MUCH WHICH WILL BE USEFUL IN  
DEVELOPMENTS FOR OUR DEFENSE.

THOSE WHO PRESENTED YOUR CANDIDATE SYSTEM CAN BE  
ASSURED THAT THEY DID THEIR JOB WELL. I LOOK FORWARD  
TO SEEING YOU SOON.

WARM REGARDS,

HAROLD

END TEXT.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 025012  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S- O SGOLDSMITH

APPROVED BY: S/S- O SGOLDSMITH

-----101322 311505Z /53

O 311450Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 025012

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION LONDON USNATO BONN FROM SECSTATE DTD 31 JAN  
1978 QTE

S E C R E T STATE 025012

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR

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PAGE 02 STATE 025012

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WARM REGARDS,

HAROLD

END TEXT. VANCE UNQTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, MILITARY SALES, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE025012  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JSIENNA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P840148-1700, N780002-0211  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978012/aaaaabpa.tel  
**Line Count:** 161  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b73f09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3710058  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TANK GUN  
**TAGS:** MPOL, UK, NATO, (BROWN, HAROLD), (MULLEY, FREDERICK)  
**To:** LONDON USNATO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b73f09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014